

Message Text

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SUBJ: WEST GREENLAND SALMON FISHERY - INITIAL ESTIMATES OF
1973 CATCHES

STATE FOR COA - AMB. MCKERNAN

COMMERCE FOR NOAA - WALLACE AND NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES
SERVICE - SCHONING

INTERIOR FOR DIRECTOR OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

REF: A) COPENHAGEN 1489 B) STATE 83048

1. ON BASIS PRELIMINARY AND UNOFFICIAL INFORMATION, INITIAL
ESTIMATES BY REGIONAL FISHERIES ATTACHE OF THE 1973 SALMON
CATCHES, ROUND FISH WEIGHT, IN WATERS OFF WEST GREENLAND ARE;
GREENLAND FISHERMAN - 1250 METRIC TONS, 150 TONS OVER QUOTE A;
DANISH AND FAROESE HIGH SEAS FISHERMAN - 700 TO 800 TONS, UNDER
QUOTA; AND NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN - 200 TO 300 TONS, UNDER QUOTA.

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2. THE GREENLAND FISHERMAN QUOTA WAS EXCEEDED IN SPITE OF

PROCEDURES INTRODUCED BY GREENLAND OFFICIALS AS AUTHORIZED UNDER THE NEW GREENLAND HUNTING AND FISHING LAW WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT IN JUNE 1973. AMONG REASONS FOR CATCHES EXCEEDING THE QUOTA ARE: (A) UNEXPECTED EARLY ACHIEVEMENT OF QUOTA IN THE MIDDLE OF SEPTEMBER AND EXCELLENT CATCHES BEING MADE AT THE TIME; (B) INEXPERIENCE OF GREENLAND OFFICIALS IN OPERATION OF QUOTA MECHANISM, INCLUDING COORDINATION OF DATA AS RECEIVED FROM BUYING POINTS AT REMOTE VILLAGES ON LONG RUGGED COAST; AND (C) DIFFICULTY IN GETTING NATIVE GREENLANDERS TO COMPREHEND NEED TO STOP FISHING WHEN FISHING WAS AT ITS PEAK OR WHEN SOME WERE JUST STARTING TO FISH AS THE SALMON MIGRATION REACHED THEIR LOCALE.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, MOSES OLSEN, FOLETING MEMBER FROM GREENLAND, CALLED FOR INCREASING THE QUOTA TO 1600 TONS; AND OTHER GREENLAND FOLKETING REPRESENTATIVE, MINISTER FOR GREENLAND KNUD HERTLING, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE INDICATED TO THE GREENLAND COUNCIL THAT HE ALSO FAVORED A HIGHER QUOTA.

4. COMMENT. WE EXPECT THAT THE GREENLAND INTERESTS WILL PRESSURE THE DANISH GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION SEEKING A HIGHER GREENLAND QUOTA. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT "FOR NOW" THERE ARE NO PLANS TO REOPEN THE QUOTA QUESTION. THE FISHERIES MINISTRY TOLD US THAT IT PREFERRED TO WAIT ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE CONSIDERING ANY ACTION ON THE GREENLAND QUOTA. QUITE POSSIBLY, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT MAY EXPLORE THE REACTION TO A HIGHER QUOTA PROPOSAL AMONG THE DELEGATES AT THE 1974 MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES. DEPENDING ON THE REACTION AND SCIENTIFIC DATA EXPECTED FROM RECENT STUDIES, THE DANISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT TAKE UP THE QUESTION OF HIGHER QUOTAS IN 1975 WITH THE UNITED STATES AND AT THE ANNUAL ICNAF MEETING, ESPECIALLY SINCE ANY POTENTIAL GREENLAND QUOTA INCREASE WOULD NOT THEN BECOME EFFECTIVE UNTIL 1976 WHEN THE HIGH SEAS SALMON FISHING WOULD HAVE BEEN PHASED OUT. CROWE

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